राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक सहकारी प्रणाली के कार्यकरण में सुधार लाने के लिए राज्य विशिष्ट योजनाएं तैयार कर रहा है और इन योजनाओं के आधार पर उसका राज्य सरकार और राज्य तथा जिला स्तरीय सहकारी बैंकों के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर करने का प्रस्ताव है ताकि राज्य विशिष्ट विकास कार्य योजनाएं कार्यान्वित की जा सकें। इसमें अन्य बातों के साथ सहकारी बैंकों की शेयर पूंजी में अंशदान हेतु सहायता के लिए प्रावधान किया जाएगा।

Smuggling of Brown Sugar

222. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seized brown sugar worth Rs. 8 crores at the Indira Gandhi International Airport recently; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check the smuggling of brown sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) As per available information, the Air Customs (Preventive) staff at the Indira Gandhi International Airport seized 8 kgs of herion on 12-11-94. No precise valuation of narcotic drugs, which are often of indeterminate strength and composition and are liable for destruction, is feasible.

(b) Instructions have been issued to all enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up efforts under the stringent provisions contained in the NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced.

Strike by Banking Industry

223. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes faced by banking industry since March, 1994 till date;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the demands of the banks employees; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) There have been four All India strikes by bank employees since March 1994, viz., 8th April, 5th May, 11th May and 29th September, 1994.

(b) and (c) Reasons for resorting to strikes by the employees in banking industry were, inter alia, against alleged privatisation of banks; for grant of increment/fixed personal allowance to officers on account of computerisation and for early wage revision.

(d) IBA/Government has assured the banks' unions, time and again, that there is no move to privatise public sector banks and that their public sector character would not be compromised. They have also assued them that there is no threat to their jobs and job security. This position had also been explained personally by the Finance Minister in his meeting with the leaders of the Central Trade Unions on 29-1-1994. Further, an industry level settlement (VIth Bipartite Settlement) has been signed with the unions on 14-2-95 providing for an overall increase in wage bill to the tune of 10.5 per cent costing the banking industry Rs. 388 crores p.a. in respect of the award staff employees in the public sector banks. Discussions with officers' associations in the banking industry for wage revision are in progress